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The Niagara Advance
www.niagaraadvance.ca
Thursday, April 24, 2014

NOTL takes another hit from board

Julie Jocsak QMI Agency Niagara

A disappointed crowd listens to the trustees vote at Tuesday's District School Board of Niagara meeting and realizes it spells closure for Parliament Oak Public School in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Parliament Oak supporters already talking of appeal of accommodation review to province

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

An overwhelming majority of trustees sided with their senior staff at Tuesday's school board meeting, sounding the death knell for Parliament Oak Public School.

Alex Bradnam and Jonathan Fast voted to keep the Old Town facility open, and both spoke eloquently in an attempt to sway their fellow trustees, but to no avail.

Minds were made up, and although several talked of heavy hearts and the difficulty in making decisions to close schools, they supported the board staff recommendation to close Parliament Oak at the end of June 2015, and consolidate students at Crossroads Public School in Virgil.

"Niagara-on-the-Lake has taken hit after hit after hit in the accommodation review process over the last number of years," said Bradnam.

"Let's give them a chance, with our help, to succeed," he said. "Let's take a leap of faith this time."

See Page 3

Donning a tutu to dance

Joe Pillitteri is asking for support as he dances for cancer research

4

Rotary Club fashion show

Annual event supports youth programs

13

Field lacrosse season underway

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Man injured in tractor accident grateful for help from farming community

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Walter Konik was planning on covering his strawberry plants with the 300-pound bale of straw that fell on him about two weeks ago.

Instead, he was rushed by ambulance from his Concession 6 farm to St. Catharines General Hospital, and then airlifted to Hamilton General with life-threatening injuries.

He was transferred closer to home last Saturday—he's now recovering from several broken bones, including his ribs, sternum, and his spine which was cracked at the 10th vertebrae—at the Greater Niagara General Hospital in Niagara Falls.

Konik, 63, was lifting two bales of straw with a front-end loader fitted with forks on Monday, April 7, when one of the square bales rolled back on him and pinned him in his seat. The bales were to go into a shredding machine to be chewed up before he covered the strawberry plants with the straw.

His wife Marian says he's still mad at himself for rushing the job, trying to get it finished quickly so he could get on to the next step.

Farm accidents are not uncommon, she says, and that's usually bow they happen.

"It just takes one small slip when you're rushing to get things done," she says.

"He's mad at himself for letting it happen."

Konik has had many friends from the farming community come to his aid since it happened, helping out with jobs around the farm—including making sure the strawberries got covered.

The Koniks have greenhouses full of annuals, and tender fruit trees to look after. In recent years, Marian has been doing the paper work rather than being outside involved in farm operations.

They have migrant farm workers from Mexico, some who come back every year, but they need instructions on how to proceed, she said.

"Right now Walter's trying to run the farm from the hospital, on a cell phone."

Friends are stepping in to do what the farm workers can't do, she said.

One problem they've encountered is the man who has driven the tractor for them for years decided not to return this season, so they have no one to do that particular job—they're looking for a tractor driver.

Walter won't be driving anything for three months, she said, and he won't be working on the farm at all this season.

"I was afraid once he gets home he'll try to do too much," said Marion.

"But the doctors are assuring me that won't happen. They say he'll be in too much pain."

She isn't sure when he will be released from hospital, but she's preparing for his homecoming by ordering an electric bed and other equipment he will need.

At the moment, his only physical therapy is to walk the hospital corridors with a walker, but he will require ongoing therapy after he's released.

Marion says she and her husband are very grateful to those in the farming community for pitching in to help, and to all those who have stopped by to see Walter in the hospital—those visits have really cheered him up.

And she's also thankful for the local volunteer firefighters—Walter used to be one of them—and to the paramedics for their quick response.

Walter still has a long way to go in his recovery, but their assistance and quick thinking that will help get him there.

"We know it could have been so much worse," she says.

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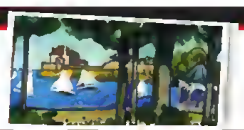

Did you know the number of existing homes that sold in March was 4.9% higher than the prior March, according to the Canadian Real Estate Association? The average selling price of homes across the country last month was 6% higher than a year earlier. The showing is stronger than predictions from Bank of Montreal for a 3% year-over-year gain. Greater Vancouver, Calgary and Greater Toronto were the biggest gainers. For more go to perryquinn.com

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Trustees warned Catholic board may snatch up school property

From Page 1

"I cannot think of another rural community that has had to go through the number of these heart-wrenching experiences as NOTL has had to endure."

He called for a "pause" to give the school until 2018 to rebuild its enrolment, as school supporters had suggested, and warned that the Catholic school board is set on expanding and might be interested in snatching up the Parliament Oak property.

"Since when are we, as a board, in the business of handing our students over to other interests who see the value of the Parliament Oak site?"

The trustees were shown a demonstration of commitment, caring and support from a community that is unique, that has wonderful history and a shared love of its children, said Trustee Dale Robinson, but no matter what decision the board makes the children of NOTL will receive "a wonderful education.

"Schools are not just bricks and mortar. We get attached to the buildings, when it is the people inside who make the education experience so wonderful."

Trustee Dave Schaubel said if he followed his heart, it would go in a different direction, but after weighing the pros and cons of all the information he'd heard, he had to agree with senior staff.

"One thing that will never be questioned, is their heart for your kids, our students and their achievements."

There was one laugh of the evening from parents - from derision, not humour - when Trustee Lora Campbell said consolidating students will give them the best education, better that they have now.

Chair Kevin Maves quickly put a stop to the crowd's vocal reaction and asked for respect.

"Don't think we don't have feelings, because we do," he said.

He too spoke of the difficulty of closing schools, and of telling the NOTL community "for the second time in less than five years" that it's about to lose another school.

"We don't take the decision lightly," he said, speaking of having a heavy heart.

"There's no joy in closing schools in any community."

Fast, the only trustee from NOTL, said the province is changing the accommodation review process to better protect small communities, and asked for the school to be kept open to position the board for change and to possibly accommodate a merger of the Catholic and public school boards.

He also called on trustees to save $1.3 million by not building an addition to Crossroads, and reminded them that "NOTL has already taken it on the chin" with the loss of the high school.

Penny Coles Niagara Advance
Jim Collard, NOTL town councillor and a retired teacher, is dejected after hearing the decision of the DSBN.

And with expected growth in St. Davids and Glendale, keeping Parliament Oak open will allow Crossroads to handle an anticipated enrolment increase.

But although there was some dispute over numbers, it was numbers that decided Trustee Dalton Clark.

Like others, he spoke of the commitment of CARE members and the respect they brought to the discussion.

"It is very difficult to say no to them," he said.

But it comes down to the numbers, "and very small schools are not good for kids."

It was a sombre group of parents and CARE members, with several politicians in the crowd, including town councillors, Lord Mayor Dave Eke and his wife Debbie, Regional Chair Gary Burroughs and MPP Wayne Gates, who filed out after the decision.

Burroughs offered a reminder that there's a month before filing income tax and deciding to switch education taxes to the Catholic board.

But the thrust of the conversation centred on phase two—the next stage of the battle.

"Everything we heard tonight was so disappointing," said Parliament Oak parent council co-chair and CARE member Joy Janzen.

The next step is to appeal the review to show the province the school board did not follow the accommodation review process, she said.

"It was unavoidable to not be aware of the damaged relationship Niagara-on-the-Lake has with the DSBN," said Janzen.

"But we also felt a strong pull to rally and fortunately we were not alone."

CARE started because of concerns about the education provided in Niagara, she said, and will continue to support Parliament Oak.

"I would hope that something positive could still emerge from the knowledge gained from the team of people who joined together."

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Pillitteri will be a dad who dances for someone – in a tutu

Dads will perform fundraising ballet routine at dance school recital

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

When Joe Pillitteri steps on a stage—as he has done many times—his goal is usually to make people laugh at him.

But the preparation for his next stage appearance is designed to reduce the hilarity of his performance.

Pillitteri will be wearing a tutu, so he knows he and the other 24 fathers performing with him will get some laughs—that's inevitable.

But the Dance for Somebody is deadly serious. They are putting on their ballet shoes and rehearsing a routine that they hope to perform, if not flawlessly, at least well enough to reflect the effort they are putting into it.

"They want you to look serious and be serious. Our goal is to make this look as well-executed as possible. It will be interesting to see how well we pull it off."

Pillitteri promises he will give his heart and soul on recital night, the year-end showcase for students of Ballet Etc. In St. Catharines.

His two older daughters, Ariel, 14, and Olivia, 11, have been taking dance lessons for several years, and each year, he attends their recital, he says. But that's about the extent of his involvement, and his girls often accuse him of not showing much interest in their activities. And it's true he's mucb more involved in his son's sports, usually volunteering as a trainer or assistant coach.

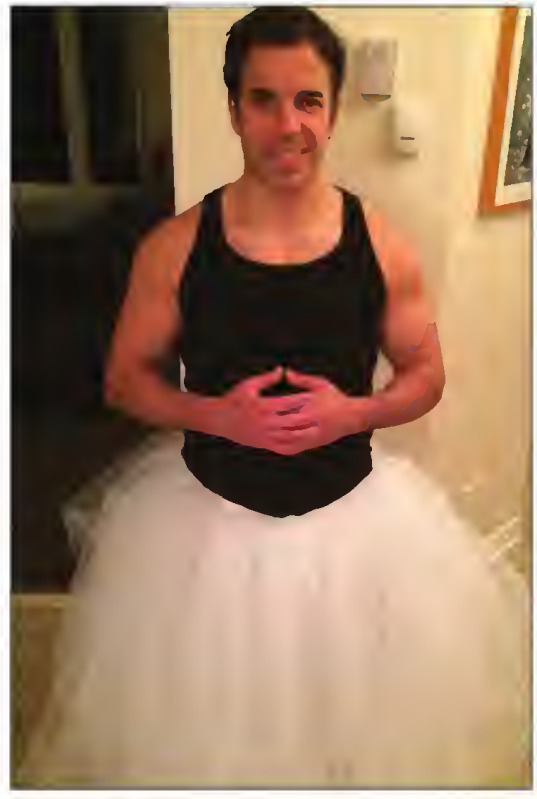
"It's always been a bone of contention with the girls," he says.

So this year, he offered to step up and dance at their recital.

Dance for Somebody is an annual event for the dance school, he says. Each of the dads who volunteers to participate commits to attending two classes a week, an hour and a half each class for a total of 30 to 40 hours learning and practising the routine. They also are asked to raise $500 each for the Walker Family Cancer Centre, although he has his heart set on a much higher goal.

Pillitteri has helped to raise thousands of dollars by performing as an MC or doing his stand-up comedy, but be's never worn a tutu or raised money for the Walker centre, he says.

"This is in line with what I like to do—raise money and entertain people—and I'm learning something new in the process."



Joe Pillitteri poses in a tutu to provide a glimpse of what can be expected when he performs in Dad's Dance for Somebody, a fundraiser for cancer that is part of his two daughters' final dance recital with Ballet Etc.

At least he's trying to learn.

"We're all really horrible dancers. It's considerably more challenging than I thought it would be. Trying to look co-ordinated in a routine with 25 men who are not at all co-ordinated is not easy. We watch our instructor and she makes it look so simple, but when we do it, it doesn't look anything like what it's supposed to, and we're only doing the most generic of moves. It seems there's something about our bodies that just makes it very difficult."

He admits to thinking it would be far easier than it is, and rehearsals have given him a new appreciation for dancers, including his daughters.

"I just can't believe how much effort it takes. I couldn't have credited how much work it is until I tried it myself."

It's not so much the physical exertion that's a problem for Pillitteri—he's works out and is relatively fit, although he says the other men in the routine come in all shapes and sizes.

"It takes tremendous co-ordination and concentration. That's wbat makes it so challenging."

Pillitteri says he will dance for the many people he knows who are cancer survivors, and the families of those who have lost the battle. And he'll hope for a brighter future, a future wbere there are cures for cancer and where there won't be "so holes to fill" from those who have died from it.

And as for the May 23 recital, he'll do his best to not give people a reason to laugh at him—but he knows he'll end up with a gold mine of material for his next comedy show.

To donate to Pillitteri's Dance for Somebody visit http://ofnhs.akaraisin.com/dancedad.

Firefighters returned to extinguish a second blaze at 815 Line 7 in NOTL Sunday.

Older structures present challenge for firefighters

'It doesn't happen often, but it happens' says fire chief of blaze that started up again after firefighers left the scene of a house fire

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

They aren't words Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire Chief Alex Burbidge is anxious to say, but the fire that destroyed a Line 7 home Sunday was in the same area of the house as the one firefighters thought they had extinguished the day before.

"It doesn't happen often, but it happens," said Burbidge.

The Sunday blaze was discovered at about 5:20 a.m. when Wayne Mayers took a peek outside at his neighbour's home at 815 Line 7.

The house had been sealed after a fire Saturday afternoon caused an estimated $45,000 to the home.

When Mayers saw flames shooting 20 feet out of the house, he called town firefighters who arrived at the scene and found the structure fully ablaze, with no one home.

Burbidge said the homeowner was fixing a water leak from a bathroom pipe when the first fire broke out Saturday—while work was being done on the pipe, a torch caused a fire in the wall.

The blaze was contained to the roof interior, walls and bathroom and quickly put out.

At the scene again on Sunday, Burbidge said the home was gutted, with total damage estimated at roughly $300,000. There were no injuries in either blaze.

The fire chief is now working with the home owners and insurance company, he said.

Burbidge said firefighters "overhauled" the blaze Saturday, and left feeling confident the fire was out.

""We did what we normally do, but it started again," he said.

The investigation is complete, and determined the cause of Sunday's fire to also be accidental, with the origin at the same site.

It was an old house with several additions to it, said Burbidge, and that can cause difficulties.

"When you're dealing with a structure like that it has voids and hidden areas, and you don't know what's there, or what to expect. It's not like dealing with a new house when you know exactly what you're going to find."

The Mayers and family friend and neighbour Randy Hipwell said the home owners are distraught, but are being temporarily housed by others.

"There are lots of friends around, it is a very tight community here," said Hipwell.

With files from Don Fraser, QMI Agency Niagara

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MICHAEL CRESSMAN, Publisher, 905–358–5711 ext. 1111
Michael.Cressman@sunmedia.ca

PENNY COLES, Editor, 905–468–3283 ext. 103
Penny.Coles@sunmedia.ca

MYRA ROBERTSON, Sales Manager 905–871–3100 ext. 202
Myra.Robertson@sunmedia.ca

our editorial

Disappointment enough to go around as trustees ignore will of a community

Deja vu all over again.

It has been so important, and yet so very difficult, to stay optimistic through the accommodation review process that focused on ways to keep Parliament Oak Public School open. It has been necessary to believe in the process, to accept that closure of the school was not a foregone conclusion by school board staff and trustees, that it hasn't been just a matter of going through the motions.

And yet.

We learned a lesson with the review process that closed Niagara District Secondary School. We learned we have no political clout at the school board. We learned that the trustees aren't interested in what is best for our students or our community, no matter how many times they tell us they have the best interest of our students at heart.

Achieving success together. The sky's the limit. These are the District School Board of Niagara slogans. Lofty, motivating goals. But where does NOTL fit in to them? What are the goals for our students? Certainly not to have them educated in their own communities. Not to respect the wishes of NOTL taxpayers.

The school board has excess capacity, too many seats, not enough bums. They can trot that excuse out and it has some truth to it. But they also have choices. And choosing to keep a school open when it is the only one in a community is not impossible, not even fiscally irresponsible, and certainly is better for the kids.

CARE members supporting Parliament Oak have been passionate, at times emotional, and certainly committed to doing the best for their kids. But more important, they were right. If ever a group of parents and community members could fight the system and win, this was it.

And the fight is not over.

An undertone through this battle, what some parents referred to as the elephant in the room, alluded to often but never at the heart of the discussion, is the school board's responsibility for maintenance of its buildings and all the other associated costs of operating them, versus the province pitching in to build a new school. Close an old school (or two as in the case of Virgil and Col. John Butler), save some money, and build a new school with provincial funds. And what a bonus for the board when it sells the property it no longer needs.

Conspiracy theorists have said that's the board's intention with Parliament Oak. It's aging, it will cost money to repair (even after more than $1.6 million has been spent - up to us to decide whether to believe it needs more work) and then, when it turns out everyone other than board staff was right about the growth in enrolment, oops, says staff, and the province pays for another bright, shiny new school.

CARE members presented a solid case for keeping Parliament Oak open. Little attention was paid, with the exception of two trustees. And a grand old building, oozing history and community, will close.

However, if there is indeed a provincial review of school closures in rural areas coming this summer, and at the same time this particular decision is appealed to the province, could there be a reprieve on the horizon?

It doesn't hurt to hope.

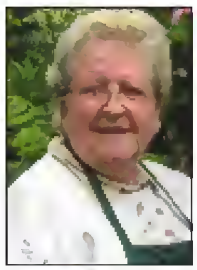
Salute to a local senior

Jake Wiens began volunteering at Heritage Place in Virgil several years ago when his wife was a resident. A devoted husband who went daily to help with her care, he also lent a hand to other residents. After his wife died he continued helping out, feeding residents and doing odd jobs. He's a faithful volunteer who still goes twice every day, contributing about 100 hours a month. In recognition of his volunteerism, Wiens was given $500, a provincial award from Home Instead Senior Care, for the charity of his choice. Presenting him with the cheque are Denielle Cuoco from Home Instead and Corinna Visser from Heritage Place and Pleasant Manor.

Photo submitted

Patience a virtue when everything in the garden is so far behind

Mulching is coming but wait to see what you've got



Jean Cochrane
Happy Gardening

The one thing thriving in my garden right now is weeds. I check each new green shoot hopefully, but at the moment it seems to be plants 25%, weeds 75%.

Many of us are very concerned about our hydrangeas - all I can suggest is patience. Wait to see where green begins to appear and judge where to cut out the dead parts.

Yes patience is the gardener's best tool - you can't buy it, and you don't find it in books. When in doubt do nothing - after all if you cut something off you can't stick it back on, and you won't be the first gardener to nurture a weed.

Lawn care is on the agenda but you have to wait until it dries out.

Mulching is yet to come, but wait to see how your plants are looking. There is so much not showing yet it can be confusing.

I'm ready to put out the plants I have potted because they're pale and they need the sun, but you have to watch the temperature. This year is a challenge.

Happy gardening.

opinion

It takes a community

It takes a community to build a community garden: Joanne Young, from Mori Gardens, worked on the design, Cathy Simpson of the NOTL Public Library helped to make it happen, along with the Niagara Nursery School and Child Care Centre, represented by Candice Penny, and Andrea Kaiser, library board member and fundraising chair; Vintage Hotels will be using the garden as a teaching tool, and was represented by Chris Smythe, executive chef of the Prince of Wales, Mark Longster from Pillar and Post and Marc Lyons of Queens Landing; the Sykes Landscaping team helped to break ground for the community garden behind the library and will act as project manager. Fundraising efforts and bequests have raised almost half of the $87,000 cost of the project. To volunteer your help or donate, call Simpson at 905-468-2023 ext. 203 or email csimpson@notl.org.

Food shelves stocked at Newark Neighbours

Thanks to all for generous donations

Barbara Ahluwalia
Newark Neighbours

We hope you all enjoyed the Easter weekend,and the long awaited sunshine.

Our thanks to John Skubel of the NOTL Lions Club, for organizing the food drive at Hendriks' and Phil's valu-mart at the weekend, to their volunteers for manning the tables, and to all those who donate d food, and also to the volunteers for delivering the supplies to the Barn. The generosity of our community is quite amazing.

Happy Birthday to Bob Barnim, whose guests donated food, instead of gifts at his birthday party, and thanks for the donation from Cecil Taylor.

The food room is quite well stocked for the moment, thanks to the continuing support of our citizens.

Our hours now until the fall are Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Call 905-468-3519.

letters to the editor

Thanks for assistance from firefighers, paramedics

We want to thank all of our dedicated local firefighting volunteers and paramedics for their quick response to the serious accident at Konik Farms on Monday, April 7.

Their timely assistance, experience and invaluable knowledge allowed them to make the proper lifesaving decisions on the scene resulting in a positive outcome.

We would also like to thank the many people who have called and visited to offer support and assistance.

Walter and Marian Konik

REIF ESTATE WINERY

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Sauvignon Blanc $9.95 • Chardonnay Sauvignon Blanc $9.95
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White Meritage $16.95 • Chardonnay Reserve $16.95
Select Late Harvest Vidal $16.95

Wine Boutique Open 10am to 6pm

What happened to Minou? Answer likely to remain a mystery

Owners hate to think it was a malicious attack that left their pet with three legs

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Minou is gentle, affectionate and outgoing.

He makes friends, not enemies. He's very social. People like him.

Last Wednesday, after being out for a little jaunt through his Chautauqua neighbourhood in Niagara-on-the-Lake, he returned home with a severely injured leg. It has since been amputated.

Brad and Diane Dalgleish have no idea how their lovely, fluffy black and white cat was hurt, and probably never will know. But they do know how badly he was hurt.

They would like to understand what happened, but it will likely remain a mystery, unless someone in their neighbourhood has seen or heard something that might explain it.

It was an unusual injury. Minou's leg was severely crushed, so badly broken that it could be completely rotated. But there wasn't a single mark on him anywhere else.

The Dalgleishs feel it was unlikely he was hit by a car, or fell from a height—the injury was too localized.

His leg was injured by severe blunt force trauma, that much they know. But how?

Not knowing is difficult.

It could have been a malicious attack. Or there could be some other explanation that involved no malice, such as a door slammed on the back leg, says Dalgleish.

Minou does go outside, and his owners have received calls from neighbours saying he's visiting and hoping to be fed. They've had to ask their neighbours not to feed him.

He is a rescue cat, found wandering in a neighbourhood near Brock University. His love of attention leads them to believe he had been well-cared for, but he was scrawny from living in the wild.

The Dalgleishes took him home and did their best to find his rightful owners through the internet, but had no luck. And although they had no intention of being tied down by a pet at this stage of their lives, they quickly became attached to him and decided he could stay.

Although Minou wanders the neighbourhood, they've never had anybody complain. Everyone loves him. And it's easy to see why. Just days after surgery, he hobbles over and cuddles up to a complete stranger, wants his tummy rubbed, then flops down to have a sleep by their feet.

See Page 9

Niagara-on-the-Lake EST.1781

1593 Four Mile Creek Road,
PO Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0
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E-Mail: info@notl.org
Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
www.notl.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
Technical Amendments to the Comprehensive Zoning By-law By-law No. 4316-09, as amended

PROPOSED CHANGE
The proposed zoning by-law amendment is to undertake general technical amendments to the New Comprehensive Zoning By-law 4316-09, as amended, that are administrative changes, provide for corrections to typographical errors and correct omissions in both the text and schedules. The proposed changes are minor in nature and will not change the purpose and intent of the Zoning By-law.

HAVE YOUR SAY
Input on any proposed matter is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public information meeting or by making a written submission to the Town.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
Date: May 5, 2014
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Administration Offices, Council Chambers
1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, Ontario

WRITTEN SUBMISSION
To provide input in writing, or to request personal notice if the proposed change is adopted, please send a letter c/o Town Clerk Holly Dowd, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, Ontario, L0S 1T0.

MORE INFORMATION
For more information please contact Darka Jensen at 905-468-3266, extension 247 or djensen@notl.org. A copy of this notice can be found on the Town's website at www.notl.org.

LEGAL NOTICE
Section 34 of the Planning Act
If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake before this matter is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council to the Ontario Municipal Board.
If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submission to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake before this matter is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there is reasonable grounds to do so.
If you wish to be notified of the decision of Town Council in respect to this matter, you must make a written request to the Town Clerk

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 24th day of April 2014.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
Facilities Permitted under the Federal Government's Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations (MMPR)

PROPOSED CHANGE
Consideration of definitions, provisions and permission of facilities licensed under the Federal Government's Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations (MMPR).

HAVE YOUR SAY
Input on any proposed matter is welcome and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public information meeting or by making a written submission to the Town.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
Date: May 5, 2014
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Administration Offices
Council Chambers
1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, Ontario

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MORE INFORMATION
For more information please contact Aaron Butler at 905-468-3266, extension 294 or abutler@notl.org. A copy of this notice can be found on the Town's website at www.notl.org.

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If you wish to be notified of the decision of Town Council in respect to this matter, you must make a written request to the Town Clerk.

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake this 24th day of April 2014.

No history of angry neighbours

From Page 8

Dr. Jim Turpel of Upper Canada says he doesn't amputate limbs lightly, but in Minou's case, his back leg was so badly mangled he felt it was the best solution.

Owners are usually horrified when he suggests amputation, but pets aren't like people, he says. There's no social stigma involved, and pets usually recover very quickly, pain-free, to live out their lives quite happily.

The veterinarian says Minou's was a bizarre injury, extremely severe yet very localized.

It's difficult to imagine just the one leg being run over, or being hurt so badly in a fall from a tree or fence without other injuries.

But it's possible, said Turpel.

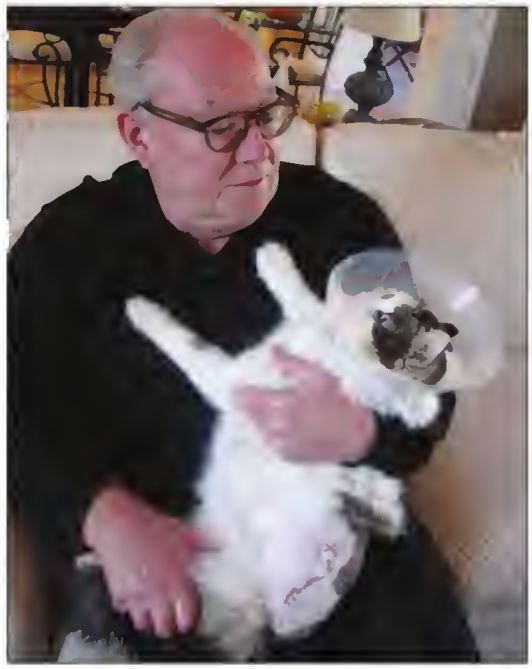
It's also possible somebody took a baseball bat or shovel to Minou's leg, he added, but unlikely.

"I don't want people to worry that there's someone in the neighbourhood harming cats. I think that's unlikely. If there was a history with an angry neighbour, it would be different, but in this case there isn't," said Turpel.

"I like to be optimistic. Part of me wants to believe it wasn't that. We see it occasionally, but it's very rare."

And in Minou's case, because of his affectionate nature, "I'd say he'd be more likely to be abducted than abused."

The Dalgleishs agree Minou had no enemies that they know of. They can't imagine anybody wanting to hurt him. But they would like to know what happened. They ask anyone who might have heard or seen anything to call them at 289--868-9597.



Penny Coles Niagara Advance

Brad Dalgleish would like to know how Minou, a cat they adopted a year ago, had his leg injured so badly it had to be amputated. Other than the severe blunt trauma to his back leg, he had no other injuries.

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NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

The Lord Mayor & Town Council Invite You To A COMMUNITY UPDATE

Please join us for the final community update session in this term of Council. A summary report from the last session in November is posted on the Town's website (under Council Business) and will be available, in addition to the 2013 Annual Report, at the meeting.

Residents are encouraged to share their views on issues of local interest.

Date: Monday, April 28, 2014

Location: Auditorium, Community Centre

Agenda:

7:00 p.m. Lord Mayor's Welcome
7:20 p.m. Break-Out Sessions with Council Members
8:00 p.m. Councillor Reports on Group Discussions
8:30 p.m. Question & Answer Session

Please Note: Town staff will be available at 6:30 p.m. to provide information to residents on how to make sure their name is on the voters list for the coming municipal election on October 27.

For further information, please contact Dawn McInnis, Corporate Services Department, at 905-468-3061 x 235 or dmcinnis@notl.org.

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▲Ratings are awarded by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) (www.iihs.org). To qualify for 2014 TOP SAFETY PICK+, a vehicle must earn good ratings in the moderate overlap front, side, roof strength and head restraint tests, a good or acceptable rating in the small overlap front test, and a basic, advanced or superior rating for front crash prevention. *MSRP of $25,995 on 2014 Forester 2.5i (EJ1 X0). Lease rate of 0.9% for 24 months. Monthly payment is $287 with $2,662 down payment. Option to purchase at end of lease is $18,823 with $3,333 due on signing. Advertised pricing consists of MSRP plus charges for Freight/PDI ($1,650), Air Tax ($100), Tire Stewardship Levy ($29.20), OMVIC Fee ($5), Dealer Admin ($199). Freight/PDI charge includes a full tank of gas. Taxes, license, registration and insurance are extra. $0 security deposit. Model shown: 2014 Forester 2.5i Limited Package (EJ2 LP) with an MSRP of $33,295. Dealers may sell or lease for less or may have to order or trade. Offers applicable on approved credit at participating dealers only. Lease based on a maximum of 20,000 km per year, with excess charged at $0.10/km. Leasing and financing programs available through Subaru Financial Services by TCCI. Other lease and finance rates and terms available, down payment or equivalent trade-in may be required. Vehicle shown solely for purposes of illustration, and may not be equipped exactly as shown. Offers available until April 30, 2014. See your local Subaru dealer for complete program details.

Pedal Angels choose NOTL to be heart–safe community

Defibrillators to be placed in restaurants, stores - any gathering place

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Most of the public buildings in Niagara-on-the-Lake have defibrillators, an easy-to-use device that can tell when a heart stops beating effectively and deliver an electric shock to help restart it.

But a volunteer group calling itself the Niagara EMS Pedal Angels has plans to go considerably further in making NOTL a safe community.

The volunteers are paramedics who also happen to be cyclist enthusiasts. They take part in annual fundraisers such at the Toronto Ride for Heart, and use the money they raise to purchase defibrillators they've placed around Niagara.

"In the first couple of years, we had 20 team members trying to raise $1,000 each, which we did each year," says group leader Danny Kerr.

But then they began to look at ways to expand both their fundraising efforts and the impact they make. They came up with the concept of a heart-safe community, and last year directed their strategy to the small community of Wainfleet, blitzing it with defibrillators and training locals to use them.

This year, they are targeting NOTL.

They want automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in stores on Queen St.

They'd like to see one in the Village Green Plaza in Virgil—their choice would be Silk's Country Kitchen, because the restaurant has the longest open hours in the plaza, Kerr.

They're going to approach Clare's Harley Davidson on York Rd., Niagara College and the Royal Niagara Golf Club in Glendale, local coffee shops, retailers and restaurants—any location that could be considered a gathering place, in every corner of NOTL.

They're choosing places that don't meet government criteria for placing an AED, but meet their criteria—areas of high density gathering points such as stores, and natural community gathering places such as churches.

They hope to have 30 to 40 local sites for an AED, so members of the community have quick and easy access to the device in cases of sudden cardiac arrest of somebody nearby.

They also hope to have people at those locations, and nearby, trained to use the devices, with a goal of training 500 people in town.

So, for example, if someone came into the Advance office in the Village Green Plaza and suffered a heart attack, a staff member would know that there is a defibrillator just a few doors down, at Silk's, and would know how to use it, says Kerr. A life could be saved.

But there's more to the concept. It has to do with engaging an entire community, making the majority of residents aware of defibrillators, the role they can play in saving lives, and the importance of learning how to perform CPR and using an AED.

"We don't want it to be a piece of equipment on the wall. It's about engaging people in the community, and educating individuals tho work in and around each location."

Fire Chief Alex Burbidge has great respect for what the Pedal Angels are trying to accomplish, especially considering the heart-safe community concept originated with them.

"I hope the community will rally around them," he said, "and I hope there will be enough merchants who will agree to be involved, and consider it a local charity they can support. Why shouldn't we look after ourselves and our community?"

The Pedal Angels chose Wainfleet first and then NOTL because they are smaller, rural communities, where the response from emergency personnel might be slower than in a large urban area, says Kerr, and because blanketing a small municipality would have more of an impact.

"We're focusing on one community at a time, and we felt the concept of awareness can be much more successful in a smaller community."

They are hoping that those businesses who do agree to host an AED will also assist to some degree in the fundraising, he said. Staff could agree to personal donations to be matched by the business owner. The advantage for all involved is that they become knowledgeable about how to safe a life, even if the emergency arises at home, far from a defibrillator, says Kerr. And if you've helped to pay for a defibrillator, you're more engaged in the process of making your community heart-safe.

"It adds to the level of security in a community, and the awareness that it's a collective responsibility to know how to save lives."

Take online survey to provide input on regional transit

Rob Houle
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Region wants your input on inter-municipal transit.

The regional government is conducting a three-pronged survey to gauge public opinion on the future of public transit between Niagara communities. Information is being gathered in a telephone survey, online questionnaire and by feedback noted by Region staff out in the communities.

The Region initiated an inter-municipal transit pilot project in 2011 that is scheduled to come to an end in September. The feedback from residents will help steer the system moving forward past the pilot-project phase.

"We are reaching out to Niagara communities looking for information because we are in a listening phase and trying to gather as much community input as we can while we figure out the transit connections between communities," said Kumar Ranjan, the Region's associate director of transportation planning.

At the onset of the pilot program, the Region gave grants totalling $3.7 million to the Welland, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls transit systems for the purchase of eight buses to be used to connect those municipalities, as well as Port Colborne, Fort Erie and Thorold. The St. Catharines and Niagara Falls transit systems bought three buses each, while Welland Transit bought two buses. A ticket to ride on the regional buses is good for a transfer onto the local transit systems. Niagara Region Transit gives each of those transit systems yearly grants to operate the regional service.

Niagara-on-the-Lake started a public transit system in 2012, and because of that, Ranjan said, Niagara Region Transit is "working towards" linking up with it.

Ranjan said since its inception, Niagara Region Transit has experienced steady growth in ridership. Ridership went from 128,863 in 2012 to 177,020 in 2013, an increase of 37%. Average ridership per trip in 2013 was approximately 6.9 riders, up from 5 in 2012.

The gross budget to run the system in 2013 was $2.9 million. Gross revenue was $733,682, of which $184,957 went to the municipal transit systems and $548,725 went into Region coffers — $23,725 more than budgeted.

"None of the transit systems are money makers," said Ranjan. "You have to subsidize them one way or another."

The survey is hoping to hear from residents outside the communities currently being serviced by regional transit, Ranjan said.

"We would like to have information on what their views are on connecting communities," Ranjan said.

Region Chairman Gary Burroughs said he favours expanding inter-municipal transit. "All communities need to be included."

In a column he wrote at the end of March, Burroughs said: "Our economy could use the kick-start a fully integrated inter-municipal transit system could bring."

To take the online Let's Talk Transit survey, go to: www.niagararegion.ca/transit. Those who take the survey are eligible to win a $50 gift card.

Niagara Region Transit cost the homeowner of a house assessed at $232,000 $9.75 per year on the Region portion of the property tax bill.

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16 FIRELANE 11 $839,000

Fabulous Niagara waterfront opportunity! This exceptional home which was newly built less than 10 years ago features spacious open living spaces, an abundance of windows showcasing fabulous views of Lake Ontario, Brazilian hardwood flooring throughout both levels, large modern Kitchen with views of the lake, 9-14 foot ceilings, master bedroom overlooking the lake, Boathouse with rooftop deck. MLS N30031615 **Chris Bowron & Audrey Wright.**

8 HARMONY DRIVE $699,000

Elegant spacious Bungalow in a desirable location. This exceptional home features a large great room with tray ceilings, separate dining room, large updated Kitchen with dining area, hardwood and ceramic flooring, three large bedrooms and a newly finished lower level with wet bar. Backyard is large and private with cement patio and pathways, wood gazebo. MLS New **Chris Bowron and Audrey Wright.**

EMERALD FALLS CONDOMINIUMS

A total of 20 one and two bedroom units to be built on Thorold Stone Road Niagara Falls. Pricing from **$219,000. Accepting Reservations – 905 262 6996**

356 DORCHESTER STREET $659,000

Traditional home with modern appeal offering open concept living and set on deep, park-like lot. This lovingly cared for home has undergone major renovations including a large addition and has 2400 square feet of finished living space. Situated in prime location close to downtown shops, theatres and restaurants. **Thomas Elliott and Kim Elliott.**

705 LINE 2 ROAD $469,000

Enjoy spectacular vineyard views with the convenience of town living close to all amenities. This well designed 4 bedroom 4 bathroom home in great family neighbourhood is partly surrounded by greenbelt and offers open concept great room with gas fireplace, formal dining room, convenient mudroom, powder room, large centre island in kitchen and sliding doors to back deck overlooking vineyards. **Thomas Elliott and Kim Elliott.**

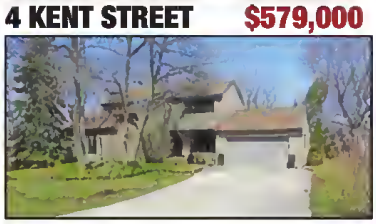
289 RICARDO STREET $1,994,900

Rare waterfront property with private deep water dock, located in desirable historic marina area of Niagara on the Lake. A 1908 arts and crafts style home offering 114 feet of prime waterfront at the mouth of the Niagara River. MLS# N30000252 **Thomas Elliott and Viviane Elliott.**

177 VICTORIA STREET $725,000

Circa 1816. This Georgian Frame House Is An Example Of Early Postwar Rebuilding In Niagara. Ideally Located In The Heart Of Old Town. Completely Restored In 1965 With Its White Clapboard, Black Door & Shutters & Small Paned Twelve-Over-Twelve Windows, All The Character & Charm Of A Historic Home. Within Steps of Queen St Shops, Theatres, Lake Ontario & Golf Course. **MLS N30029449. Ralph Tallman.**

4 KENT STREET $579,000



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Broker, Christopher Bowron***	905-488-2289	Audrey Wright*	289-241-0212	Robert Wilkinson*	905-380-3851
Victoria Bolduc*	905-941-3726	Trish Badham*	905-262-1876	Kevin Stokes*	905-988-3222
Philip Bowron*	905-348-7626	Viviane Elltoft*	905-468-2142	Colleen Blake*	905-328-8799
Bonnie Grimm*	905-468-1256	Thomas Elltoft*	905-380-8012	Christina Sauriol*	905-328-9703
Ralph Tallman*	905-468-2973	Cheryl Carmichael*	905-941-0278		
Kim Elltoft*	905-380-8011	Sarah Gleddie*	905-885-2458		
Randall Armstrong**	905-651-2977	Phyllis Handarson*	905-932-2589		

*** Broker of Record ** Broker * Sales Representative

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Planche wants to be Niagara MP

Ray Spiteri
QMI Agency Niagara

Ron Planche wants to get ahead of the game.

Although the next federal election is not until October 2015, the Niagara Falls resident and long-time Liberal supporter has created an exploratory committee aimed at securing the party's federal nomination in the riding.

"Two pieces have fallen into place," said Planche. "My doctor and my family say there's nothing to stop me from running for elected office. And Liberal organizers expressed their pleasure when I told them I was interested in seeking the nomination."

Planche, 68, was told in October he had cancer cells cells at the back of his tongue that had spread to his lymph glands. He went through radiation treatment at the end of the year and, in March, his doctor gave him a clean bill of health.

Planche said he believes he has the policy background and political experience to mount a serious campaign and win the riding held by Conservative MP and Defence Minister Rob Nicholson.

Residents in the riding may know Planche for his work as executive assistant to former Liberal MPP Kim Craitor for eight years.

He said while his name is well known to the media, business leaders and a "small" social section, it is not to the general public.

Planche said he's frustrated by what the federal Conservatives have done to Canada and doesn't believe the Liberals have yet to make an "adequate response."

Niagara's sluggish economy and high unemployment proves Conservative policies aren't working for Niagara Falls, despite having a high-ranking MP representing the area, he said.

"I think the Conservatives have been absent without leave, to use a military term, on the defining issue of our day — jobs and the economy.

"The Niagara economy has nose-dived under their watch. Niagara is now rated as the highest-unemployment area in all of Canada. That's a travesty because we have people of exceptional talent to help drive our economy forward.

Ron Planche hopes to represent NOTL., Niagara Falls and Fort Erie in the next federal election. QMI Niagara file photo

"It is important to make sure that before we export our valuable natural resources we insure that they are managed in a way to employ our underutilized work force. Our current practices need to change."

Planche said federal Liberals should select their candidate soon to ensure the party is prepared for the election challenge.

"The sooner and longer Niagara Falls Liberals have a qualified candidate in the field, the better our chances are of winning the riding in 2015.

"I hope there is a challenge (to his nomination). I want to get our name out there."

Planche said he has been in touch with the federal campaign's Ontario organizers, the first step in pursuing the nomination.

He has submitted the paperwork required by the party of prospective candidates. He is awaiting the party's "green light" approval, given to people the party accepts as potential nominees. He expects to get the green light by the end of April or early May. After that, he will urge the riding association to "move expeditiously" in its search for a candidate.

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Rotary fashion show to raise money for youth projects

Exchange program requires financial support

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

The second annual fashion show presented by the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake will provide financial support to several youth programs.

Jeannie Manning, a member of the club, believes strongly in the value of the Rotary Youth Exchange Program and some other initiatives that benefit young people in the community, building the leaders of tomorrow.

Two Niagara teens are studying abroad this year thanks to the program: Mackenzie Hunse is in Sweden and Gavin Dalgleish is in Argentina.

The club is hosting two students as well—one from France and another from Austria—and pays for a portion of activities organized for the exchange students.

Finding host families is the first step to sending local teens abroad, says Manning, since the club can send one teen for each incoming exchange student they can host.

The school board also poses restrictions—financially, the number of students leaving a board school has to balance with the number arriving in order for the board to accept an exchange student at one of its high schools, says Manning.

But although there is that financial issue to work out, the board considers the program a benefit for all its students, she says

"They look at it as an opportunity for their schools and students. The exchange students who arrive are gregarious, accomplished and confident young people. They're good role models."

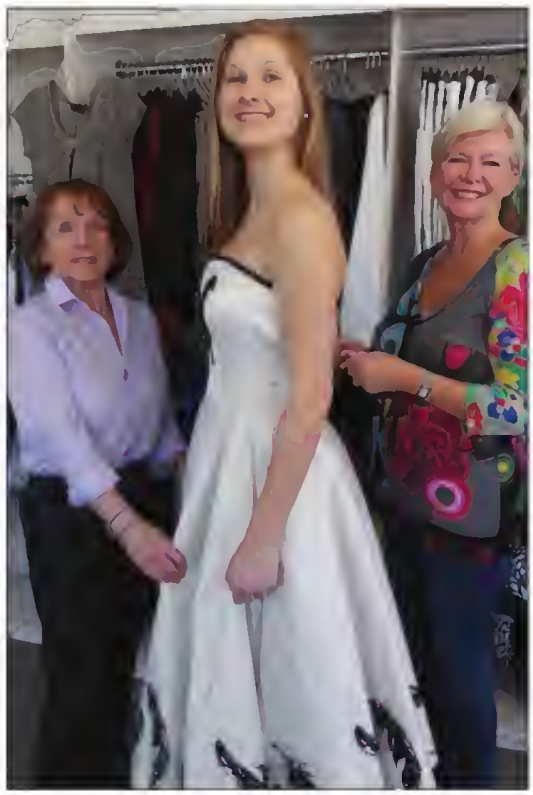
The goal of the exchange program, she explains, is for teens to experience different cultures, and to foster a greater understanding about cultures that are different from ours.

"Promoting cultural understanding, learning we are all different in some ways but in other ways all the same, will ultimately lead to world peace."

Teens who participate can also expect to form international friendships and act as ambassadors for their country.

In addition to the exchange program, the fashion fundraiser also supports SLAPSHOT, a weekend Rotary program for students ages 15 to 18 from our local high schools, who come together to learn teamwork and leadership skills; and RYLA, for young people aged 19 to 25, university students or graduates, who attend a four-day leadership and networking program.

There are a total of five programs under the youth-based Rotary umbrella, she said.



Nicole Goodwin, a Rotarian and former host mom, Franziska Edlinger, 15–year–old exchange student from Vienna, Austria and Jeannie Manning, international youth exchange chair for the Rotary Club of NOTL, prepare for the upcoming fundraising fashion show. Photo submitted

"We're not just a group of older people fundraising for international projects. Our youth programs are the heart, the vitality of the club."

The fashion show is Sunday, May 4, at the Gate House Hotel Ristorante Giardino, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Fashions will be from Bella Grace Boutique, Hatley Children's Wear, Le Chapeau and Presents Jewelery. Tickets are $50, and are available at Bella Grace on Queen St. The timing of the event makes it a great Mother's Day gift, says Manning.

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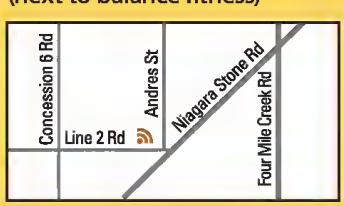

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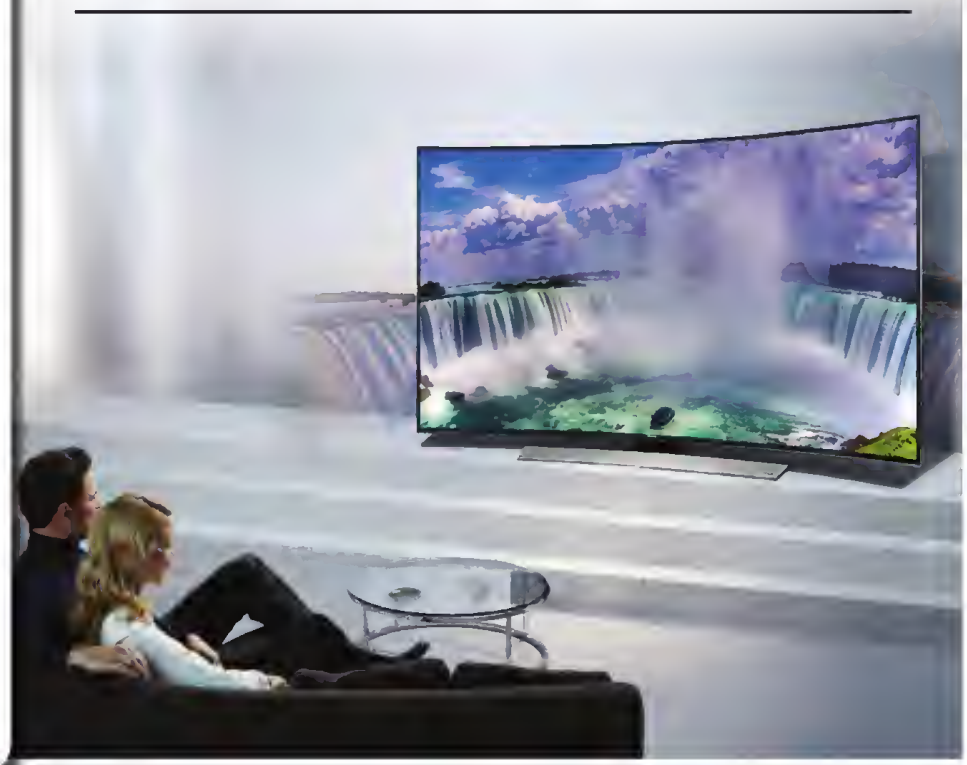

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Students celebrate Earth Day by planting outdoor classroom

Students begin work on first stage of outdoor learning centre

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

The first stage of an outdoor garden at Crossroads Public School is underway, with the first planting held to celebrate Earth Day.

For the past year staff and parents have been putting together an ambitious plan to take learning outside the traditional classroom walls, says parent volunteer Lianne Lambert.

On Tuesday, students, teachers and volunteers moved outdoors to plant native shrubs behind the school, in the area that has been designated an outdoor learning garden.

Ten large sugar maples have been donated by Mori Nurseries to define the space, with evergreens around and between the maples, providing a canopy for shade.

The first stage of the planting, says Lambert, is the area furthest from the road behind the school. The road has been the subject of the accommodation review discussion with Parliament Oak, with talk of widening it. If that becomes necessary, she says, there should still be room for the garden as designed, and if modifications are necessary, they will be minor.

The goal of the project is to provide children and the community with a green space where environmental education can take place, says Lambert.

Other objectives include increasing awareness about native plants and trees, as well as the issue of declining monarch butterfly populations. Design elements of the garden include a wildflower meadow, a human sundial, a weather station, a small gathering area with a focus on rock and soil studies, raised planters for fruit and vegetables, as well as a large gathering area with a stage to increase the garden's potential uses.

The garden is providing students with a hands-on approach to learning about the natural environment, says Lambert, and teachers will have ample opportunity to use the outdoor learning garden to teach the curriculum, especially in the areas of science and technology.

The cost of the project, which will be divided into several stages, is about $30,000.

The Niagara Chapter Advisory Board of the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation has given Crossroads a $2,550 grant, and Tree Canada's Greening Canada's School Grounds Program has awarded Crossroads $3,000.

There are other grants Lambert is applying for totaling $12,000 if they are successful, and local community supporters have been generous with their support as well, including Crossroads Parent Council, Leno Mori of Mori Nurseries, Penner Building Centre and Bice Builders, with a total of $6,050 raised so far, not including in-kind support.

"As community support continues to pour in and grant applications continue to go out, we are confident we will raise the funds necessary and hope to continue to receive in-kind support as well," says Lambert.

To support this project please contact Troy Wallace, Crossroads principal, at troy.wallace@dsbn.org or 905-468-7793, or Lambert at fivelamberts@gmail.com.

Melanie Voogt, Keona Abrams–Karras, Austin Belanger, Austyn Werstroh, Autumn Read and Tristan Tibbs prepare to plant some evergreens and shrubs at Crossroads Public School on Tuesday, Earth Day. The planting is the first stage of the school's outdoor learning centre. Photo submitted

5 Sentry Circle

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4PM

An exceptional home to lay roots placed on an exceptional property that is near beyond words. Backing onto protected green belt this outstanding yard seems to drift into the sunset. 3 bed, 3 bath, large windows, attached 2 car garage, in ground pool, finished basement and professionally landscaped yard space in sought after Garrison Village. Stop by this Sunday and see for yourself that few homes can compare in location and price!

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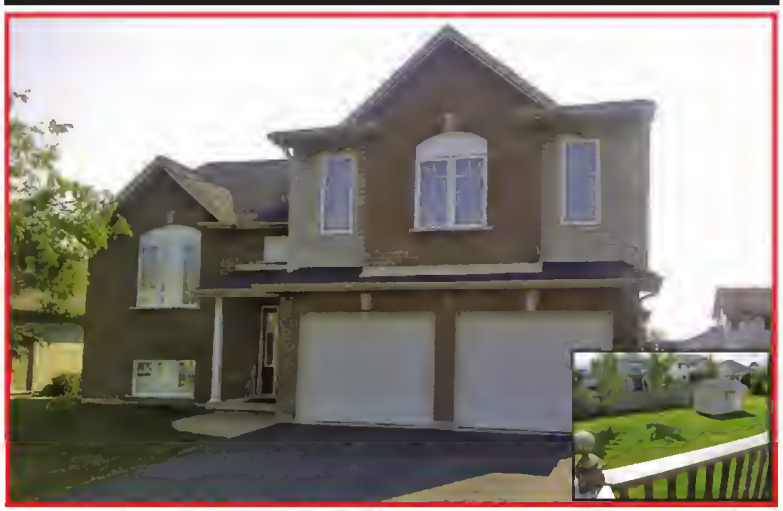

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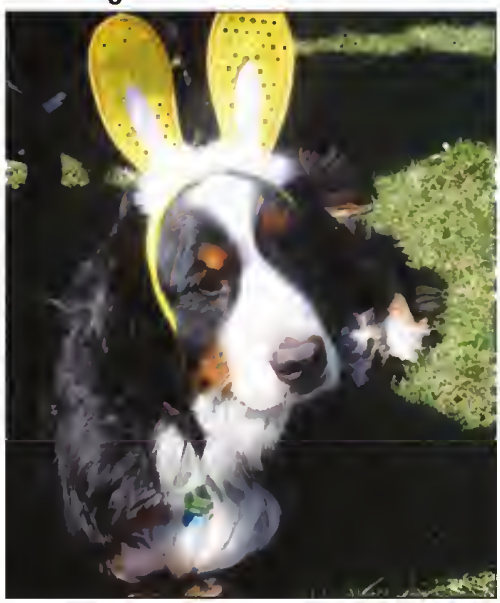

Penny Coles Niagara Advance

Zoey visits the Niagara Nursery School Bunny Trail with Kevin and Rebecca Clark, at the community centre in NOTL Saturday morning.

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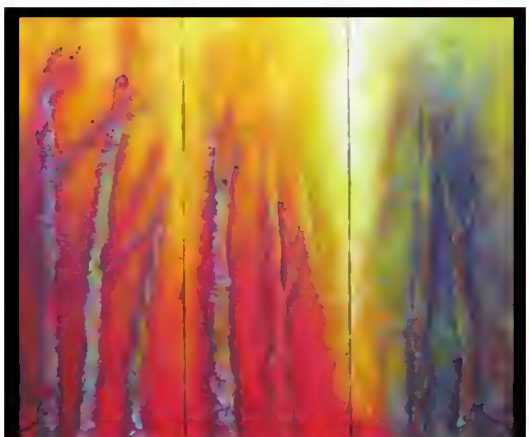

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Lione Club Hall, 1462 York Road, St.Davids

Place your **Coming Event/Community Calendar Social** here, with or without a border, colour, graphics optional. **Include your logo!**

Deadline: Monday 5pm

Call Anna at 905-468-3283 ext 102 for Rates & Deadlines

Queenston group looking for garden tools and accessories

Recycle and help fund local projects

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Now that it's beginning to seem like spring, members of the Queenston Residents Association are beginning to prepare for their annual Plant and Garden Sale.

But they could use some help.

It's the third annual sale for them, and they have had some interesting and useful items donated in recent years, mostly by members.

They've sold their own, no-longer-wanted garden tools and accessories, and they've bought what their neighbours were selling.

A garden trellis in last year's sale can be seen on one front lawn, a beautiful patio set in another back yard.

"We get rid of things, and we buy others," says Vicki Lowenberger, one of the organizers.

It's recycling at its best.

But they've all cleaned out their garages and garden sheds for previous sales, and there's not much left to donate.

"We're hoping people in the area might have some garden items to donate to the sale," says Lowenberger.

That goes for plants as well.

Most of the plants they've sold at the event are perennials they've dug from their own gardens when it was time to divide and thin them out.

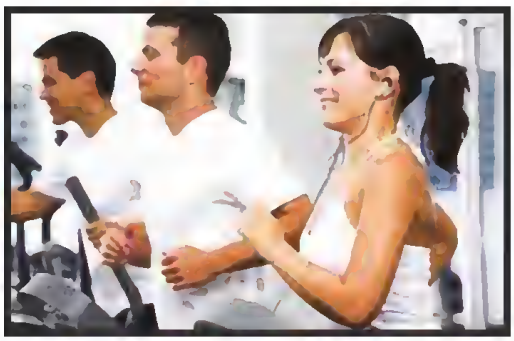
They hope to have the same great selection as they have had other years, to ensure another successful fundraiser.

Some of the money collected from previous events has been spent on a wreath for Remembrance Day, the reprinting of the Journal of John Norton, the commemorative plaque at St. Saviour's Church, ongoing battles to preserve the integrity of the village against jet boats, and the new public address system at the library.

The Plant and Garden Sale is May 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Queenston Library. Anyone with items to donate can call 905-262-5760 or 905-262-4145 to have them picked up.

Penny Coles Niagara Advance

Vicki Lowenberger, Marilyn Armstrong, Susan Allen, Helena Copeland, Paulette Peggs and Alice Duc Triano prepare for the third annual Plant and Garden Sale to raise funds for the Queenston Residents Association. The group is looking for donations of plants, garden tools and accessories to sell.



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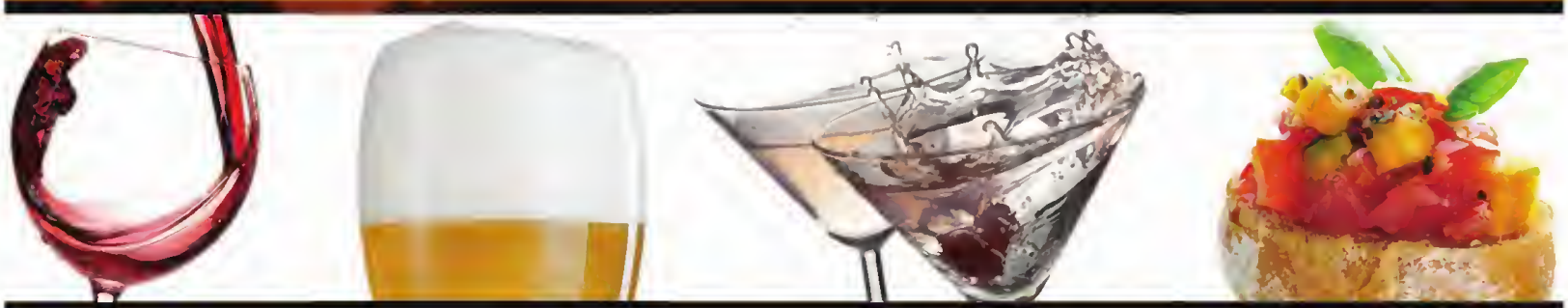

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Niagara Foundation announces scholarship for Willowbank student

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

The Niagara Foundation, dedicated to preserving heritage, has set up a scholarship to be awarded to a third-year student of Willowbank's School of Restoration Arts.

Foundation president Michael Howe was at the school last Saturday to announce the scholarship, at a pre-graduation event for staff and students.

Howe's mother, Margherita Howe, he told students, was an environmental activist. She ultimately received the Order of Canada well in to her 70s, as well as the equivalent American distinction.

"She was passionate about her cause, she was outspoken, she didn't suffer fools, she bullied politicians who needed to be bullied, and she sought out partnerships with others who were equally passionate about their causes."

She was also the first president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy, dedicated to preserving heritage in Niagara-on-the-Lake—Louise Howe, Michael's sister, is now a board member of that group.

It was the extent of Margherita's passion for what she believed in, said Howe, a Willowbank board member, that goes a long way to explaining why she and Laura Dodson, Willowbank's restoration arts school's founder, were close friends.

"Viewing this relationship from a very close distance, sometimes too close – these were two people who could be absolutely incendiary in a one-on-one discussion – gave me a tremendous respect for what Laura ultimately did accomplish in establishing this wonderful school," he told staff and students. "What you are doing here is truly extraordinary."

The scholarship is up to $5,000 for a student toward the third year tuition at Willowbank.

As a condition of the scholarship, the successful candidate must complete an agreed-upon heritage project, with all supporting research and documentation prepared for the project to be shared with the Niagara Foundation and made available as a resource for future initiatives.

Willowbank's mission to preserve the heritage landscape of the community, and its goal and that of the Niagara Foundation, are closely aligned, said Howe.

Michael Howe, Niagara Foundation president, announces a scholarship for a third-year Willowbank School of Restoration Arts student at last week's pre-graduation event. Photo submitted

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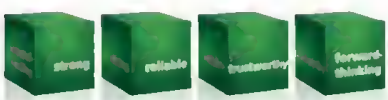

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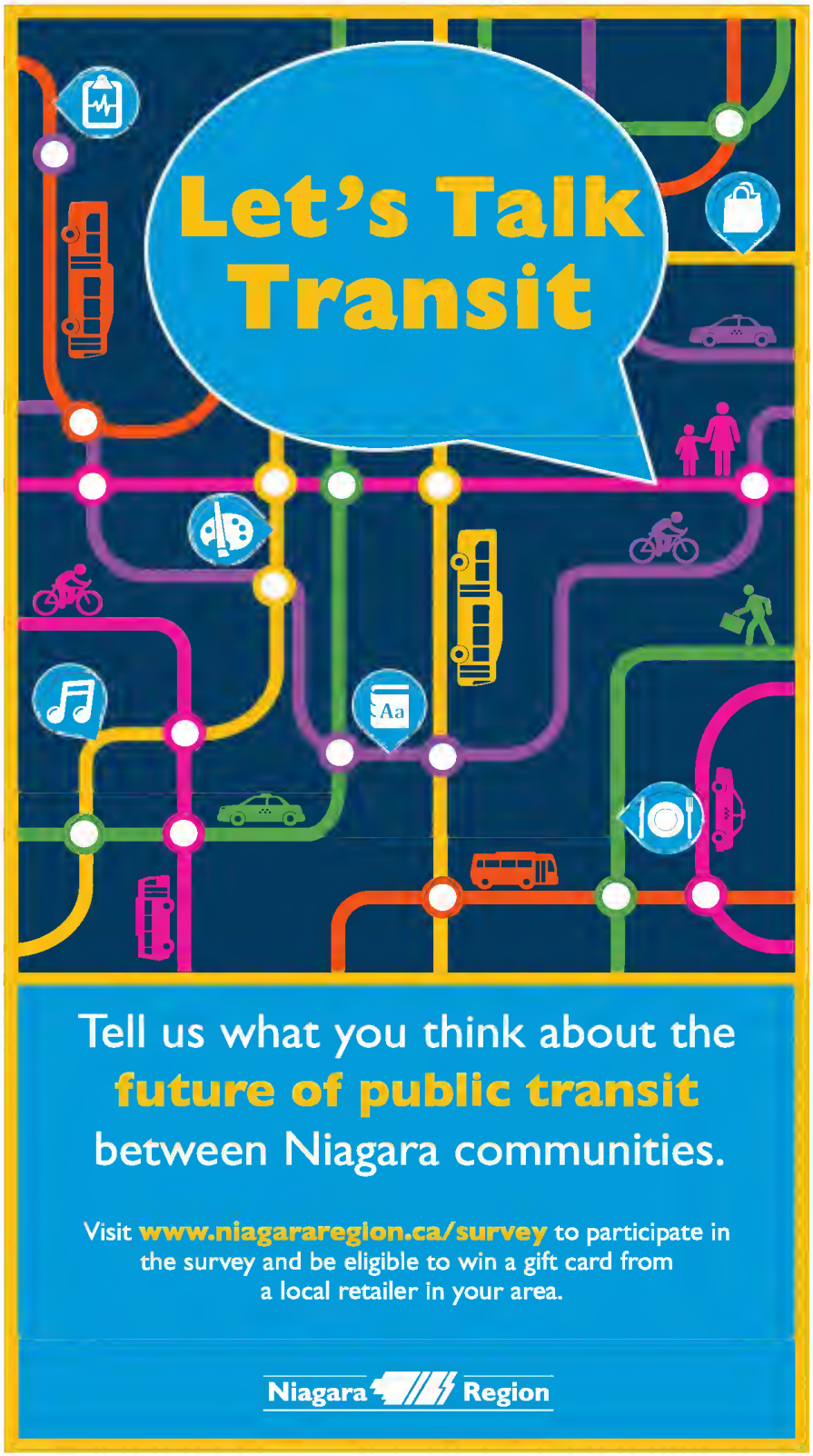
Queenston choir to help local teen

The Queenston Ladies Choir will present a Spring Choral Concert this Sunday, April 27 at 3 p.m. at Silver Spire Church on St. Paul Street in St. Catharines. The concert will be a collection of light spring selections about love, lullabies and several folk songs as well as some spirituals. Special guests are the Niagara Bellas making their debut singing six-part contemporary acapella songs. The choir has grown to over 30 members and recently sang with the Brock and MacMaster University women's choirs in St. Catherine's celebrating International Woman's day in March. The women will be singing a few of the mass choir songs they performed there at the spring concert. Proceeds from the concert are going to a local teen singer who has just been diagnosed with a genetic degenerative disease causing vision loss. They hope to purchase a MacBook computer for her with the concert proceeds as it has exceptional accessibility aids for people with vision disabilities. Tickets are $20 and can be purchased at the door or by contacting queenstonladieschoir@gmail.com. Photo supplied



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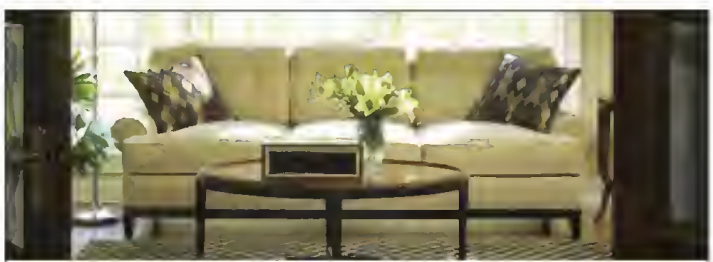
Molly Johnson performs to sold-out crowd

Jazz singer Molly Johnson performs with Robi Botos and Mike Downes at Stratus Vineyards, for one of two concerts organized for the first annual Spring Music Festival. Both were sold out and organizers Chris Mori and Alexis Spieldenner anticipate similar success for their fall series of concerts.



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Easter egg-stravaganza in Glendale

Firefighter Scott Maxwell and volunteers from the Glendale station, along with Tammy McCarthy from ReMax Garden City, organized the 7th Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday in Niagara-on-the-Green park. More than 130 kids aged from one to 12 had a blast with many parents and neighbours enjoying a great community event. Photo submitted

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One more for the bunny trail

Penny Coles Niagara Advance

A Niagara Nursery School volunteer paints a bunny face on Annabelle Cairns, a local four-year-old, at Saturday's Bunny Trail and Spring Fair. The popular event is an annual fundraiser for the co-operative nursery school.

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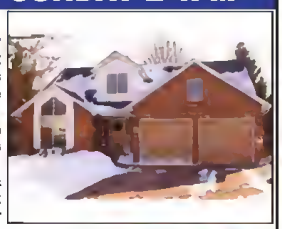

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Niagara-on-the-Lake Worship Directory

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
323 Simcoe Street

11:00 am Worship Service and Sunday School
Minister: Rev. Barb McGale
Music Director: Dr. Gerzinus Hoekstra
905-468-3363
www.standrewsniagara.com

BETHANY MENNONITE CHURCH
East/West Line & 4 Mile Creek Road
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11:00 am Sunday School
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905-468-3505 • www.vaxxine.com/bethany/

GRACE UNITED CHURCH

222 Victoria Street, Niagara on the Lake
905-468-4044
www.graceunitedchurch.com
Minister: Rev. Laura Borgerson
10:30 am Sunday Service
Music Director: Esther Giesbrecht
Parking passes are available at the Church

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1453 York Road, St. Davids
905-262-5242
www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca
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Sunday Services
8:30 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Choral Eucharist
Wednesday Service 10:00 am
905-468-3123
Rector: The Rev. Canon Dr. Robert S.G. Wright
www.stmarks1792.com

Niagara United Mennonite Church
"Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community"
10:00 am German Service
Message by Udo Woelke
11:00 am Worship Service
Message by John Tiessen
Pastors: Rudy & Sharon Dirks, Stephen Cox
1775 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-3313
http://www.redbrickchurch.ca

GateWay Community Church
(P.A.O.C.)
1665 Four Mile Creek Road • 905-468-8971
Sunday, April 27th
April Theme:
'Jesus, the reason for this season too.'
Pastor Dave Tunikaitis Ministering
www.gatewaycc.ca:
check here for events and podcasts.

www.orchardparkbiblechurch.org
434 Hunter Rd.
905-468-5731
ORCHARD PARK BIBLE CHURCH
Sunday, April 27th
Sunday School for all ages 9:45 am
Worship Service 10:40 am
Message by Pastor Jim Evans
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Sunday, April 27th
10:30 am Worship
Message: John 21
Speaker: Alexander Mills
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lifeabundantfellowship@gmail.com

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905-688-2525
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10:00am Coffee Time + 10:30am Worship Service
Village Kidz (ages 1 - grade 5)
Crossroads: When Your Past Is A Roadblock
Pastor Greg Alderton
www.villagebiblechurch.ca

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2027 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-2611 or 905-468-9673
trinitynotl@cogeco.ca
10:00 am Worship Service
Pastor Larry Ritter

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
1570 Niagara Stone Rd.
www.ccchurch.ca • 905-468-7155
Sunday, April 27th
9:30 am: 1st Service & CE
(childcare provided during entire service).
10:30 am: Coffee Time; 11:00 am: 2nd Service
(childcare provided mid-way through service)
Message by: Kevin Bayne, Pastor
Title: A Community of God's Presence

To Advertise in the Worship Directory Please Call The Niagara Advance 905-468-3283 Ext 102

Sports

Editor Penny Coles
905–468–3283 ext. 103 penny.coles@sunmedia.ca

New court surface, new instructor to start season for NOTL Tennis Club

When the Memorial Park tennis courts open for the season, there will be a new facility to enjoy.

And when the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club opens May 24, , it will be with one of Canada's leading tennis instructors who has agreed to partner with the club to teach this season at the Memorial Park courts.

Reggie Vasquez a level 3 certified coach and passionate about tennis, brings more than 25 years of coaching experience to NOTL, including lecturing at Wimbledon, US and Australian Open tennis conferences. He has taught at many of Toronto's leading tennis clubs, and his book, Tennis for Kids, bas been endorsed by Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and Rod Laver.

"We're very excited," says club vice president Hugh Dow. "We're thrilled to have somebody of Reggie's calibre on board for what promises to be an exciting tennis season."

With input from the new coach, the club has developed an extensive range of instructional programs for kids and adults, says Dow.

Vasquez taught at White Oaks, and many local players will know of his passion for progressive tennis instruction, Dow said. "He is a very enthusiastic teacher."

Vasquez says he is pleased to be associated with Niagara tennis again. "I look forward to renewing old friendships from the area and introducing new players to this wonderful' sport."

Improvements to the Memorial Park courts include a 'joint-friendly' playing surface - as rubberized asphalt surface that is thought by some to be easier on the joints for tennis players.

Registration for the NOTL Tennis Club is Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the tennis pavilion in Memorial Park.

Descriptions and full details of the adult, children's and summer camp programs can be found on the club's website at niagaratennisclub.com.

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Thunderhawks 2 and 1 in pre–season play

Team is playing with 'high level of confidence'

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Junior B Thunderhawks Lacrosse Club competed in the Spartan Pre-Season Tournament this past weekend winning two of their three games.

The team played well, allowing many rookies to show their lacrosse talent. The T-Hawks played three games, defeating Wallaceburg 8 to 4; losing to Mississauga 6 to 4 and beating Welland 7 to 4.

The Jr. B club has solidified itself as a contender in the competitive Jr. B league. Coming off an impressive 13- 7 record in 2013 the T-Hawks are looking for another play-off run towards a Founders Cup Canadian Championship.

"Our team is playing with a high level of confidence; last season showed our players that we can play with anybody in the league and be successful," says president and general manager Al Janzen.

Coach Randy Chrysler thought the overall effort was excellent.

"Our speed and tenacity played out well this weekend, and once we get back a few more veterans from university our team will balance out," said Chrysler.

The home opener for the Thunderhawks is Saturday, April 26 at 7 p.m. against Brampton at the Meridian Arena in Virgil.

Learning to compete

The annual Pre-Junior Challenge marks the end of the skating season for the NOTL Skating Club members at this level who have moved up from the CanSkate program and are in their first or second year, with a focus on figure skating. They enjoy the challenge with their peers, giving them experience for future competitions outside the club. Photo submitted

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MORTON, Andrew
July 3, 1928 - April 18, 2014
Passed away peacefully at Chateau Gardens, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Andrew, the last survivor of 5 Morton siblings was married to Patricia for 47 years. As requested by Andrew, his body was donated to McMaster University and there will be no service. Many thanks to the Doctors and Staff at Chateau Gardens for their excellent and compassionate care.

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Mom & Dad, David & Debbie,
Brenda & Bob, Veronica & Doug
Nieces & Nephews: Ashley & Thomas, Jennifer & Tyson, Joshua & Candice, Melissa, Tessa, Whitney, Billy, Malachi, Madison, Mackenzie, Kayden, Gabriel, Ella, Maddox, Tristen, Gavin, Dawson.

The Lord is My Shepherd

Perhaps they are not stars in the sky, but rather openings where our loved ones shine down to let us know they are happy. - Eskimo Legend

Niagara Thunderhawks field lacrosse teams back in action

On the heels of a successful season last spring, Niagara field lacrosse teams took to the fields the past two weekends in Guelph to start their 2014 season.

With the weather co-operating, all three teams worked hard and played well.

In novice action, the team posted a 7-5 loss to Halton Hills and a commanding 11-2 win over Center Wellington in its first week of play. Scoring in the games were Cam Lowe, Luke Lazar, Kris Wilson, Ethan Williams, Nathan Rawsthorne, Nolan Price and Jack Parker. Assists came from Williams, Lowe, Wilson, Matteo Fabiano, Gavin Black, Sam Walker, and Nathan Fehr. Noah Ostromecki stepped up in net and posted an assist as well.

The second week continued to be successful for the novices as they earned two big wins, 15-1 versus Guleph and 11-3 versus Milton. Good defence from Aaron Wilson, Lincoln Fornier and Fehr contributed to their dominance. Will Caughill stood tall between the pipes and made some timely saves.

The peewee team posted a win and a loss in its first week, losing 12-4. against Milton. Goals came from Matteo Giampa, Jaden Patterson, Brian Smith and Hunter Ostromecki. Joseph Hoover assisted.

The peeweew rallied for a 6-2 over Guelph with goals from Hoover, Smith, MacGregor Armstrong and Nathan Wilson. Nick Schmidt was strong in net.

In the second week, the peewees came up short in both games, losing 6-3 to Center Wellington and 8-4 against Milton.

The bantams faced a tough start against a strong team from Six Nations, ending in a 12-4 loss in their first week. Scoring for Niagara were Alex Brillon, Jared Mines, Mason Boldt and Chris Smith. Assists came from Reid Lowe, Trent Hunter and Jon MacIntyre.

In their second game, Niagara came out strong losing by one goal to Guelph. Goals came from Connor Watson, Alex Read, Cam Overstrom, Braeden Rawsthorne, Smith, Mines and Hunter. Kyle Legros played very well in net making many key saves.

Their second week of play saw the bantams post a win 9-7 over Oakville, following a gruelling loss to Milton. Goals came from Watson, Boldt, Rawsthorne, Smith, Lowe, and Joe Fragnito. Solid defensive performance came from Mike Weier, Quinton Walter and Mike Wilson.

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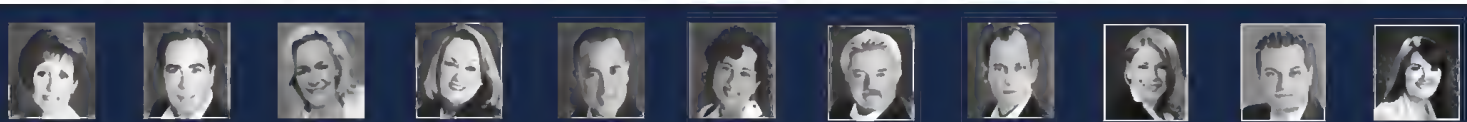

Nancy Brazeau** | Glenn Brazeau | Liesa Lepp* | Patricia Atherton* | Jaime da Silva* | Anna da Silva* | Gary Snider** | Jason Bornell* | Billie Hawkswell* | Bill Cochrane | Erin Fortune

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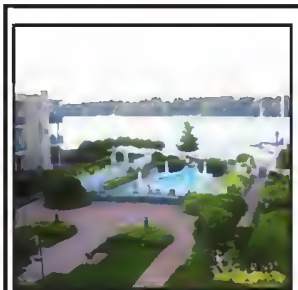

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